

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Raffles Going Strong

That is indeed a most beautiful store that Warren Ward has opened at 7339 East Florence Ave. in Downey and which he has oddly enough named *The Raffles*.

Oddly? Not so oddly when you stop to think that *The Raffles* flourished for a number of years in Leimert Park and practically did a SRO business all those years.

Well now he should do an even greater volume of business with the facilities he now has to offer. The new spot is larger — much larger than the former *Raffles*. And when the rest of the complex is completed he'll have banquet rooms coming out of his ears.

Also, this new store is so laid out that any time he gets in a bind with overflow trade, he can always accommodate the additional traffic by simply opening up another dining room, all centrally located.

The decor here, like the old *Raffles*, is of the Old English Inn variety. Beamed ceilings, stained wood paneling, red leather booths and chairs, everything that smacks of merry old England.

Even the menu seems to have a United Kingdom touch. Like, for instance, breast of chicken Nottingham or steak Wellington. And Toad in a Hole is from a recipe of old Northern England. And don't forget Jugged Hare.

Then as old English legend has it that *Raffles* was a feared highwayman — you need have no fear that there'll be any highwayship here. The prices are geared to meet the most demanding of budgets.

Meanwhile, the friendly and helpful owner-host of *The Raffles* may be seen as usual, moving about among his many guests and always with the familiar English type pipe clenched tightly in his teeth. With this guy's kind of cool you're a cinch never to become "Ruffled at Raffles."

And the same bunch of efficient waitresses, bartenders, busboys and kitchen help are still with Ward, having moved with him to Downey. Make this short jaunt down there soon and enjoy some splendid dining in an equally splendid atmosphere. You're gonna like it!

Have you ever heard of the Old World Language School? Well it's located right next door to *Maison Gerard* in Beverly Hills and one of the requirements for all students is to practice their French on the genial French waiters in this fine restaurant. You see most of the staff here are native Parisians and they thoroughly enjoy speaking with the Gallic tongue. And why not with such students as maybe Nancy Sinatra, for one.

But just how newly hired Rudy'll ever get any watering done is difficult to believe. He not only speaks English but Russian, Spanish, German and Italian as well. Can you imagine trying to serve a table and have a half-dozen students, all studying different languages and all trying them out on Rudy at the same time? Come to think of it, you may never get your soup. But the future of the language course seems assured.

Down the line a piece at the *Hotel Tropicana*, Louis Nye who has been tabbed by the public as "a comedian who can act" opened a three-week stand April 18th in the Blue Room.

Here, too, is no Charlie come-lately. Louis broke into show business in his home town of Hartford, Conn. at the tender age of 17 and has been going strong ever since with his biting satire and sardonic wit.

Then of course over in the big *Theatre Restaurant of the Trop*, the *Folies Bergere* is still doing capacity business with the new edition now in its 17th week and is scheduled for a two-year run.

Like barbecued stuff? Well there's a sharp little (little?) it's huge! spot over in Inglewood on Hawthorne Boulevard known as *BBQ Pete* that'll take no back seat anywhere when it comes to barbecued food. After all, where do you think Pete and Anne Petroff came up with the name *BBQ Pete*!

Here too, you'll find all manner of barbecued things with which to tempt your taste buds. Ribs, chicken, spareribs, yes, and even tacos. And the ample sized cocktails from the huge cocktail bar leave nothing to be desired. You'll always enjoy yourself at *BBQ Pete* for good food, fun and friendly service.

Don't hardly think this is too far advanced notice when we mention the upcoming show of *Long Beach Civic Light Opera*.

It's the Lerner and Loewe's musical, "Camelot" due to open on May 1st at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium and judging from past presentations down there by C.L.O. can only think it'll be a beautiful thing to behold. They never turn in mediocre productions.

It's scheduled for May 1, 2 and 3 with an 8:30 curtain. Then again on the 8th, 9th and 10th at the same evening time. There'll be two matinees — one on the 4th and another on the 11th with a 2:30 curtain. Tickets range in price from \$1. to \$5 with fifty cent stops in between and are available at all Wallich's Music City Stores, John's Men's Shop in Los Altos Shopping Center in Long Beach, Chuck's Sound of Music in San Pedro, Flowers and Gifts up in Palos Verdes peninsula and all Mutual Ticket Agencies. And of course right at the Auditorium Concert Hall itself.

Better get your reserved seats now and be highly entertained.

London's famed Royal Ballet through the efforts of impresario S. Hurok will present a tight schedule of performances at Shrine Auditorium on July 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Hurok will present some new works as well as the tried and true works from the internationally renowned repertoire of the company.

Among the new ballets under the direction of Sir Frederick Ashton will be "Enigma Variations" and "Jazz Calendar." In addition to guest stars Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev you'll see Deanne Berry.

THE QUEEN . . . Well not really the Queen — but when you look at her and listen to her you'll think of her as the Queen. However, she's really the King — she's Doris King, playing at the cocktail bar of the Golden Galleon Monday through Thursday from 9 'til 1:30. On Fridays she comes in at 4:30 and hangs tough 'til 9 in the evening.

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gmsa, Svetlana Beriova, Monica Mason and many more.

Well since we're getting a little advanced on other things let's get this on the boards, too.

It's the Tahoe Weekend Party now being planned for Ernie Menehune for the weekend of June 6, 7 and 8. Arrangements are currently being made by owner of the *Latitude 20 Super Club* in Torrance, Hop Louie, for "The Sun Tanned Irishman."

It's a \$66.00 package which'll include a round trip flight by Super Electra Jet, room, five meals and twenty bucks of complimentary chips to toss on the green at Tahoe Harrah's. The Ernie Menehune Revue will be appearing there, starting on May 29. (So that only gives you the rest of this month and next month to catch the Hawaiian Leprechaun at the *Latitude 20*.)

For the Tahoe jaunt you must have your reservations in by April 30. So let's keep that in mind! Should be a gas!

And by the way, remember "Kalea," the lovely little sweetie-pie who's been playing around in so many of the finer spots in this area? Well now you might be interested in knowing that she's opening soon at the *Wagon Wheel* in Tahoe. And here's a fine Polynesian talent you shouldn't miss by a long shot.

Kalea Brunner recently returned from a road tour around the country and wound the whole thing up with a 2-week stand at Hop Louie's *Trade Winds* in Oxnard. But you've only got the rest of this week to catch her 'cause she closes this coming Sunday in Oxnard — then on to the *Wagon Wheel* in Tahoe. Got it?

Oh, are you kidding! A "photographic cocktail waitress!" But whoa! Wait a second! That's not so far out as we might think!

John Gregory's dreamed (or is that "dreamt") up a thing for his *Royal Giraffe Restaurant* at the Torrance Ramada Inn and he calls it exactly that!

It's a contest with a \$25 dollar first prize plus a whole bunch of runner-up goodies. Eligible contestants must be (a-hem!) "photographic" and experienced — cocktail waitresses, and all you have to do is send a pic of yourself to John Gregory, who'll be one of the judges. Along with a couple of Beverly Hills attorneys by the unlikely names of Morton Kuret and Martin Ostrow — none of whom are in the least bit prejudiced when it comes to pulchritude — or giraffe-a-tude, for that matter. So like sign up, girls! And if your neck is a bit short — don't worry — everybody's long on necking!



GOLDEN . . . And the voice is golden when it floats from the throat of Patty Peterson, who has recently joined with Phil Porreca and Al Apodaca for the Friday and Saturday nite bit in the Golden Galleon Restaurant of the Torrance Ramada Inn. Dancing and listening from 8:30 'til 1 a.m.

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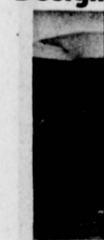
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